

EdReach Newsletter - Week of September 21, 2007

SC Student Loan Corporation donates \$3 million for Palmetto Priority academies

The SC Student Loan Corporation is donating \$3 million to establish a Star Academy program at each of the state's 16 Palmetto Priority Schools. The academies will work to boost academic achievement for overage students who are at-risk of dropping out. Read more about the Star Academy programs at <http://www.ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=834>

College, university presidents create South Carolina Campus Compact

Sixteen higher education institutions have united to form a South Carolina Campus Compact that will support civic engagement, Service-Learning and volunteer opportunities to help college students become more active and involved citizens. Read more about the South Carolina Campus Compact at <http://www.ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=835>

Elementary teacher named American Star

Wanda Green, a Calhoun County Montessori teacher, has been recognized as an American Star of Teaching. The award recognizes exemplary classroom teachers who are successful in using innovative teaching strategies and raising student achievement. Read more about Wanda Green's accomplishment at <http://www.scteachers.org/>

Message from Jim Rex

Dear Friends,

I am excited about this first edition of EdReach, the new weekly online newsletter published by the State Department of Education. I have chosen to use my space in this first edition to communicate with you about something not directly related to our mission as educators in South Carolina, but perhaps more importantly, related to our responsibilities as members of a community of caring citizens.

Every once in a while, we have the opportunity to be a part of something larger than ourselves. On October 6, I am inviting you to participate in an event that has the potential to save lives on another continent halfway around the world.

I am saddened by the terrible tragedy taking place in Darfur, Sudan at the hands of government intent on maintaining control at all costs, including genocide against its own citizens. More than 400,000 people have died and an additional three million have fled to refugee camps, where thousands more die each month of deprivation and disease. Unless more is done now, many more thousands of innocent men, women, and children will perish.

At 2 p.m. on October 6, the Darfur Action Group of South Carolina will host a rally at the State House to raise awareness about this issue and call on our leaders to do more to end these atrocities. I hope you will take a moment to learn about this issue. I hope that once you do, you will consider attending this rally and making your voice heard.

You can learn more by visiting www.dagsc.org. I am especially pleased that for our state's teachers, the Group has provided a set of lesson plans that may be used in our classrooms to bring awareness to students all across South Carolina about this issue and about what we can each do as private citizens to make a difference.

Together, we will show those in Sudan that we will not turn away while so many innocents continue to suffer.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jim Rex

Rex on The Road:

<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/superintendent/Rex-on-The-Road-Schedule.html>

In The News:

<http://www.ed.sc.gov/news/>

On The Air:

<http://www.ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=833>

Dates to Remember:

<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/publicinformation/Dates-to-Remember.html>

Resources for Teachers:

<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/publicinformation/Resources-for-Teachers.html>

Resources for Students:

<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/publicinformation/Resources-for-Students.html>

What Others Are Saying:

<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/publicinformation/Education-RelatedEditorialOpinion.html>

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